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My Dear People...

THE MANY NAMES OF CHRIST

This week, as we continue in this extended series, looking at just some of The Many Names of Christ, we come to one that appears similar to one we have already considered. The second week of this series (April 9th, 2008), we considered Christ as The Chief Cornerstone. This week we look at Him as The Living Stone. A cursory look at these two titles seems to be similar, if not identical. However, as we saw in the previous article noted above, I Peter 2:6 told us, "For this is contained in Scripture: Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, and he who believes in Him shall not be disappointed." Here we see Him as the Chief Cornerstone but in I Peter 2:4 we are told, "And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God."

Next week we start the construction of the auditorium addition here at the Chapel and so these words have a very special meaning to us. As we know, any building must have a good foundation, if it is going to be a safe building. Anyone who knows this area of west Texas knows that we go from extremely dry seasons to very wet times. The foundation has to be built such a way that it will withstand these changes in the weather patterns. It cannot break during the dry seasons or collapse and sink in the wet times.

But please allow me to inject something that should be seen, even though it doesn't really have a direct bearing on this name of our Lord. You will recall Jesus identified Himself as the "Light of the World" in John 8:12, but in Matthew 5:14 He tells His followers that they are the Light of the world. We notice the same thing is true as we look at Him as the Living Stone. In I Peter 2:5 the big fisherman tells us, "You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

You will remember that Paul tells us in I Corinthians 5:20, "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

An ambassador is a representative of another individual or nation, acting in the full authority of that identity.

Think about that! We finite beings are representatives of the Infinite Godhead. Oh, what a great privilege...but also, what a great responsibility. If you carefully review what Paul said, our conversation

should be as if God Himself were speaking. Notice carefully, "...as though God were entreating through us..." Are we careful in our conversations? Are we truly aware that the Living Stone is building us up into God's purpose and desire for us?

Peter continues and tells us, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (I Peter 2:9).

Finally, as our Living Stone, He makes us His living stones, "...no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit" (Ephesians 2:19-22).

Think about these words of Paul -- we, as the Living Stone's living stones are "...being fitted together and are growing!"

As you carefully consider this column, I hope that every one of my readers might be faithful to our obligation and responsibility to our Living Stone in all things. Are we truly growing from a simple building into a true temple of the Holy Spirit?

He is seated at the right hand of God the Father, making intercession for us. In light of all of this, what are we doing? We have been chosen by the Lord "...that we should go and bear fruit, and that our fruit should remain" (John 15:16). He is our Living Stone, are we His?